

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-15 were pending. By the present response, claims 2, 5-7, 9-11 and 14 have been amended, and claims 1, 3-4, 8, 12-13 and 15 canceled. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2, 5-7, 9-11 and 14 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: page 3, line 19 - page 7, line 10; page 10, line 20 - page 11, line 3; page 12, line 9 - page 13, line 16; Figures 3-4 and 6-7; and the original claims.

DRAWING OBJECTION

The drawings stand objected to on the grounds set forth in paragraph 1 of the Official Action. More specifically, the drawings are objected to on the grounds that the limitations appearing in claims 12, 13 and 15 are absent from the drawings. While not acquiescing to the correctness of the objection, by the present response, claims 12, 13 and 15 have been canceled, thereby obviating the drawing objection.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to on the grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Official Action. But the present response, applicants have amended the specification

in a manner which is believed to address the objection. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 3-15 are objected to because of informalities on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action. The claims have been either canceled or amended in a manner that is believed to address the objections. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2 160 500 to Evans et al. (hereafter "*Evans et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 5 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, thereby obviating the above-noted grounds for rejection.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,363,171 to Scandella (hereafter "*Scandella*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 6 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

By the present response, claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, and claim 2 has been amended such that it now depends from claim 7. Thus, the above-noted rejection has been obviated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,023,277 to Fizer (hereafter "*Fizer*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,200,983 to West et al. (hereafter "*West et al.*") and U.S. Patent No. 4,649,649 to Fain (hereafter "*Fain*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 8 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

By the present response, claims 1, 3 and 8 have been canceled, thereby obviating the above noted grounds for rejection.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,053,447 to Omri (hereafter "*Omri*") in view of *West et al.* on the grounds set forth in paragraph 9 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

By the present response, claims 1 and 3-4 have been canceled, and claims 2, 5 and 6 have been amended such that they now depend from claim 7. Thus, the above-noted grounds for rejection has been obviated.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 7 and 9-15 contain allowable subject matter, as noted in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Official Action.

By the present response, applicants have rewritten claims 7, 9 and 10 in independent form in a manner which is believed to incorporate the allowable subject matter therein.

CONCLUSION

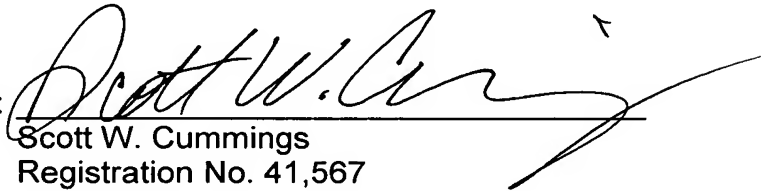
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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